

OLC 75-2217

Executive Registry
75-11,108/A

*Int that set*

10 September 1975

Professor E. W. Pfeiffer



Dear Professor Pfeiffer:

Thank you for the copy of the letter you sent to Chairman Pike of the House Committee on Intelligence Activities. I fully respect your sincerity in that letter, but I am afraid it is based upon a false premise. As I testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1970, before the House Committee on Government Operations in 1971 and before the Senate Armed Services Committee in 1973, the Phoenix Operation was not an assassination program. However, in that testimony I did acknowledge that wrongful deaths did take place in the course of the program. I pointed out, however, that I personally had made a great deal of effort to improve the propriety of the Vietnamese side of that contest, if not the Communist side. The most recent testimony on this matter is included in my confirmation hearing, a copy of which I send for your information. I fully understand your concern, and share it, but I hope that the attached material may give you a more accurate perception of this matter.

Sincerely,

*W. E. Colby*

W. E. Colby  
Director

Attachment

WEC:sfc (9 Sep 1975)

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